
WAUKESHA COUNTY CJCC

JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMITTEE

AUGUST 27, 2015

MINUTES

Benedict called the meeting to order at 3:29 p.m.

Present: Sam Benedict (Chair), Luke Hallmark, Judge William Domina, Pete Slesar, Dick Farvour, Linda Saafir.

Absent: Sara Carpenter, Kelly Haag.

Also Present: Rebecca Luczaj, Windy Jicha, Mary Wittwer, Laura Seddy, Abbey Nickolie.

Approval of Minutes from April 2, 2015

The minutes of April 2, 2015 were approved unanimously.

Committee Member Updates

Assistant District Attorney Abbey Nickolie will be replacing Andrea Will on the committee.

Discuss Juvenile Center Incident & Potential Impacts

The group discussed the shooting at the juvenile center, information disbursement, possible changes and impacts resulting from the event, etc. The group agreed this is a good opportunity to remember the importance of safety.

Domina said the Department of Administration has agreed to provide more security and make changes at the facility including increased accessibility for staff, courtroom space segregation, extended video camera access, etc. The county's security committee will discuss possible procedural changes at the facility and information disbursement to people in this and other county facilities.

Update on Current CJCC Initiatives

Luczaj said the CJCC and its stakeholders are working with NIC on the Evidence-Based Decision Making (EBDM) initiative. The first step is to completely map the criminal justice system and all decision points in hopes of identifying opportunities for change, increasing efficiency, incorporating best practices, minimizing discretion, increasing objectivity, etc. The group hopes to complete mapping at the next meeting on September 29. Waukesha County hopes to receive additional NIC funding to implement changes.

The CJCC will be working with NIC to evaluate the future of IDIP which recently faced a \$155K state budget cut on July 1, 2015. Preliminary options appear to be a capacity reduction or implementation of risk screening tools to serve the same volume of clients. NIC technical support funding and expertise will be used to evaluate three pretrial and three post-conviction CJCC programs focusing on efficiencies, goal completion, use of resources, etc. The CJCC hopes the reports will help the group make more informed decisions about the future of programming and prioritizing resources.

Update on Work of Committee to Improve Habitual Truancy

Domina said there are two groups exploring habitual truancy: a task force from Waukesha schools and a truancy sanction group exploring sanction options. The truancy sanction group recently learned that UW-Extension received a \$2,500 grant for a pilot community garden program with master gardeners which could be used as a truancy sanction. Program policies need to be developed and future funding needs to be explored.

Domina said the trend of increased truancy filings at the end of the school year from the Waukesha School District is thought to be related to yearend desk clearings. Domina spoke with school officials in hopes of finding solutions to reduce this phenomenon. Domina also spoke about pending money saving legislation that would allow schools to send truancy notifications via email and regular mail instead of certified mail.

Health & Human Services Department Updates and Update on Shelter Care Transition

Slesar said as of July 1, 2015, the county contracted with Lad Lake to provide shelter care for males and females at its Dousman campus. Shelter care youth are kept separately from the facility's formal residential treatment facility. The Sheriff's Department is responsible for transporting youth to the facility and Lad Lake is responsible for transporting youth to court and their schools. Several former county shelter care staff were hired to work at the facility and to date, the transition has gone smoothly. While in shelter care, youth have access to therapists who are trained in trauma informed care.

In response to Benedict's question, Slesar said there have been no extensive delays transporting youth to Lad Lake or court. The Sheriff's Department has agreed to have deputies and their supervisors do a case by case evaluation on whether to handcuff/shackle youth. Benedict and Domina voiced their concerns over shackling shelter care youth. Hallmark noted that many times officers/deputies have little information about the people they transport and shackle them for safety reasons. Benedict requested information on national data and protocols related to the use of shackles with shelter care youth. Domina and Benedict asked that the Sheriff be involved in further discussions about this issue. Slesar said the HHS Department is collecting statistics related to how youth are transported. During the first month, two-thirds to three-fourths of youth were handcuffed. At the next meeting, Domina would like to review these statistics and Benedict would like to revisit this item.

Benedict requested statistics be captured on the success of school transports. Saafir asked how is Lad Lake handling education for shelter care youth who attend school online? Slesar said he will find answers for the next committee meeting.

Domina said in the beginning of negotiations, Lad Lake said they would provide video access to courts for shelter care youth. Domina wondered what happened to that plan?

The group discussed an incident at shelter care where four females ran away together.

Future Agenda Items

- Shelter care video access to courts
- Statistics related to elopement, census and restraints used during transport to shelter care
- The Sheriff's Department restraint practices and policies for shelter care transports

Review Recent Case Filing & Detention Statistics, Including Delinquency & Truancy Dispositions

This item will be discussed at the next meeting.

Set Next Meeting Date & Discuss Future Agenda Items

Luczaj will send out a survey to set the next meeting date.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.